

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

No claims have been added. Claim 1, 14, and 15 are amended. Claims 27-54 are cancelled. Claims 1-26 and 55 are currently pending.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for delaying activation of a powered device intended to operate remotely in an environment in which an environmental attribute changes from a first value to a second value, comprising:

a housing;

a restraining component proximally associated with said housing, said restraining component being separable from said housing upon exposure to an environment having an environmental attribute less than or ~~substantially~~ about equal to said second value;

a normally closed electrical circuit disposed in said housing; said circuit having a power source connected with the powered device, whereby the powered device is powered upon the closing of said circuit;

said circuit having a switch sensitive to the presence of said restraining component; said switch being configured to open said circuit in the presence of said restraining component and to close said circuit in the absence of said restraining component;

whereby when said housing encounters an environment having ~~an said~~ environmental attribute less than or about equal to said second value, said restraining component separates from said housing and said circuit closes, powering said powered device.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, further comprising a surface exterior to said housing, a coating, and a magnetic field source, wherein said magnetic field source is fixed to said surface by said coating.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 2, wherein said magnetic field source comprises a magnet fixed to said surface by said coating.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 3, wherein said magnet is disposed in a dimple defined in said surface.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 2, wherein said coating comprises a pH-sensitive material.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said housing is a swallowable capsule.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein said powered device includes a sensor.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 1, further comprising a magnetic field source and a magnetic field, wherein said restraining component is said magnetic field source, wherein said switch is configured to open said circuit in the presence of said magnetic field, and wherein said switch is configured to close said circuit in the absence of said magnetic field.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, further comprising a dissolvable material, wherein said restraining component is said dissolvable material, and wherein said dissolvable material is configured to dissolve upon exposure to said environment having said environmental attribute less than or equal to said second value.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 1, further comprising a circuit and a magnetic field holding a Hall effect device in a nonconducting mode, wherein said magnetic field is separated from said housing, wherein said Hall effect device is configured to transition to a conducting mode, thereby closing said circuit and powering the powered device.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a switch and a magnetic field, wherein said switch is biased closed, but opened when influenced by said magnetic field.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 11, wherein said switch includes a Hall effect device, said magnetic field holding said Hall effect device in a nonconducting mode, so that when said magnetic field is separated from said housing, said Hall effect device transitions to a conducting mode, thereby closing the circuit and powering the powered device.

13. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein said Hall effect device is a Hall effect transistor.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, further comprising a coating, wherein said coating is dissolvable upon exposure to an environment having an environmental attribute less than or ~~substantially~~ about equal to said second value.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said environment having said environmental attribute less than or ~~substantially~~ about equal to said second value is an internal area of a human body.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 15, wherein the human being need not be stationary.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said environment is an alimentary canal.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 11, wherein the size of the powered device is smaller than a comparable powered device not capable of remote or delayed activation.

19. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said restraining component is configured to dissolve in a predefined location within the human body.

20. (Original) The system of Claim 1, further comprising a coating and a magnetizable material, wherein said coating includes a magnetizable material.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein said magnetizable material includes an iron powder.

22. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said restraining component includes a movable contact and a stationary contact.

23. (Original) The system of Claim 22, further comprising a conductive material, wherein at least one of said movable contact and said stationary contact is made of said conductive material.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein only said restraining component is exposed to said environment with said environmental attribute of said second value.

25. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said system is an endoscopic capsule.

26. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said restraining component is a rare earth magnet.

27 – 54. (Cancelled).

55. (Original) A system for delaying activation of a battery-powered electrical device, intended to operate remotely in an environment in which a pH value changes from a first value to a second value, comprising:

a housing defining an interior space and having an exterior surface;

a magnetic field source proximally associated with said housing, said magnetic field source being separable from said housing upon exposure to an environment having a pH value equal to said second value;

a normally closed electrical circuit disposed in said housing;

said circuit having a battery connected in series with an electrically powered device, whereby said electrically powered device is powered by said battery upon closing of said circuit;

said circuit having switch means sensitive to the presence of a magnetic field associated with said magnetic field source;

said switch means operable to open said circuit in the presence of said magnetic field and to close said circuit in the absence of said magnetic field;

whereby when said housing encounters an environment having a pH value equal to said second value, said magnetic field source separates from said housing and said circuit closes, powering said electrically powered device;

wherein said switch means comprises a reed switch biased closed, but opened when influenced by said magnetic field.